

# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR (Baltic)	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Antiaircraft Firing Practice in the Gulf of Finland	DATE DISTR.	4 September 1953
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	NO. OF PAGES	1
PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED]	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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**SOURCE:**

From 0830 to 2200 hours on 9 April 1953, a Soviet antiaircraft battery, emplaced on the tip of Pakri Peninsula (N 59-23, E 24-02), practiced firing toward the sea with four guns.

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One of the guns fired extremely brilliant star shells, which, upon detonation, formed four luminous bodies, one above the other. They burned for six minutes, during which time they seemed to maintain their altitude, and were fired at by three guns of the battery at intervals of one or two seconds. [REDACTED] that the bursting shells developed white smoke instead of the usual dark gray, and that the flashes of the bursting shells were glaring white, rather than red or reddish.

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Comment. The antiaircraft guns obviously fired at a target which was at an altitude usually maintained only in war, and which could not be ascertained because of its distance. As searchlights would scarcely have been able to penetrate effectively up to that altitude, and as no radar firing was made, chains of very luminous star shells were apparently employed to illuminate the target, thus making fire control possible, to some extent, by means of the light burst clouds.

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(Note: Washington Distribution indicated by "W", Field Distribution by "#")